

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. An absorbent article for placement in the crotch region of an undergarment, comprising:

a pad component, said pad component further comprising

a generally liquid permeable top cover;

5 a generally liquid impermeable baffle;

an absorbent structure disposed between said top cover and said baffle;

protective wing portions extending laterally outward from lateral sides of said pad component, said wing portions having dimensions so as to wrap at least partially around the crotch portion of the undergarment;

10 said wing portions extending longitudinally along both sides of a transverse centerline of said pad and comprising an asymmetric shape with an overlap region disposed forward of a transverse centerline of said pad.

2. The absorbent article as in claim 1, wherein said wing portions comprise an outboard edge that tapers generally from said overlap region towards said lateral side of said pad.

3. The absorbent article as in claim 1, wherein said overlap regions are disposed at a forward most position on said wing portions.

4. The absorbent article as in claim 3, wherein said wing portions comprise a forward most edge that extends generally perpendicular from said lateral side of said pad and defines said overlap regions.

5. The absorbent article as in claim 3, wherein said wing portions comprise a forward most edge that extends at an angle from said lateral side of said pad towards a forward most longitudinal end of said pad.

6. The absorbent article as in claim 1, wherein said wing portions are foldable along laterally inboard fold lines that are variably positionable relative to said pad lateral sides while maintaining an overlapping relationship between said overlap regions.

7. The absorbent article as in claim 6, wherein said fold lines are angled away from said pad lateral sides from a forward most point of said fold lines to a rearward most point of said fold lines.

8. The absorbent article as in claim 6, wherein said fold lines are angled towards said pad lateral sides from a forward most point of said fold lines to a rearward most point of said fold lines.

9. The absorbent article as in claim 1, further comprising an attaching mechanism between said overlap regions of said wing portions.

10. The absorbent article as in claim 1, wherein said article is one of a sanitary napkin, panty liner, and adult incontinent article.

11. An absorbent article for placement in the crotch region of an undergarment, comprising:

a pad component, said pad component further comprising

a generally liquid permeable top cover;

5 a generally liquid impermeable baffle;

an absorbent structure disposed between said top cover and said baffle;

protective wing portions extending laterally outward from lateral sides of said pad component, said wing portions having dimensions so as to wrap at least  
10 partially around the crotch portion of the undergarment;

said wing portions extending longitudinally on both sides of a transverse centerline of said pad;

said wing portions further comprising laterally outboard regions that overlap in a folded configuration of said wing portion around the crotch region of an  
15 undergarment, said overlap regions disposed at a forward position entirely on one side of said transverse centerline;

said wing portions foldable along laterally inboard fold lines that angle away from said pad lateral sides from a forward most point of said fold lines to a rearward most point of said fold lines; and

20 wherein in a maximum angled position of said fold lines such that said overlap regions are maintained at least partially overlapping, said overlap regions remain entirely on said one side of said transverse centerline.

12. The absorbent article as in claim 11, wherein said wing portions comprise an asymmetric shape.

13. The absorbent article as in claim 11, wherein said wing portions extend at least about two-thirds along said lateral sides of said pad.

14. The absorbent article as in claim 11, wherein said wing portions comprise a forward most edge that extends generally perpendicular from said lateral side of said pad.

15. The absorbent article as in claim 11, wherein said wing portions comprise a forward most edge that extends at an angle from said lateral side of said pad towards a forward most longitudinal end of said pad.

16. The absorbent article as in claim 11, further comprising an attaching mechanism between said overlap regions of said wing portions.

17. The absorbent article as in claim 11, wherein said article is one of a sanitary napkin, panty liner, and adult incontinent article.